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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KINSHASA 001954

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KPKO](#) [PREL](#) [CG](#) [CIAT](#)

SUBJECT: CIAT SLAMS GOVERNMENT INERTIA AND PROCRASTINATION

Classified By: CDA TDougherty for reasons 1.4 b/d.

¶1. (C) Summary: The International Committee to Accompany the Transition (CIAT) on November 25 issued an unusually harsh communique, taking the government to task for its continued inaction on issues of critical importance in bringing the DRC's transition to a successful conclusion. Frustrated at the government's seeming indifference to repeated calls by CIAT, the UN Security Council, and others to take immediate action on security sector reform, payment of military salaries, and adopting essential legislation, CIAT chiefs of mission decided the time had come for a sharp and clear wake-up call to be delivered to transition leaders. End summary.

¶2. (C) At CIAT's weekly meeting on November 24, heads of mission were briefed by MONUC on follow-up issues resulting from the Security Council's visit to the DRC earlier in the month. Little if any progress has been made on the Security Council's recommendations. Despite repeated calls since August for the government to act on the EUSEC Report, no response has been received. Salaries are not being regularly paid to troops, a situation which clearly erodes the army's effectiveness, undermines security throughout the country, and bodes ill for elections-related security the army is charged to ensure. Moreover, the government continues to fall further behind in creating new integrated brigades, supporting those brigades already formed, and demobilizing other troops. The E.U. Ambassador reported that the situation with training and paying the police is equally unsatisfactory.

¶3. (C) Similarly, concern was expressed about delays in adopting essential legislation such as the Electoral Law, Amnesty Law, and the Constitutional Referendum. An amendment to the referendum law needed to be passed, allowing the referendum to be held later than November 27 as originally scheduled. (Note: On the evening of November 25, Parliament agreed to amend the law, and to allow the Independent Electoral Commission to set another date. The Commission had earlier called for the referendum to take place on December ¶18. End note.) The Electoral Law has not yet been debated despite repeated entreaties to parliament that the substance of the law must be agreed upon well in advance of the constitutional referendum so that it can be formally adopted immediately thereafter.

¶4. (C) Despite recent assurances that the "Espace Presidentiel" would meet approximately every two weeks with CIAT, no meeting has been held since October 21. Recent formal requests by CIAT for a meeting have not been answered.

Likewise, a meeting of the Joint Commission for Security Sector Reform chaired by Vice President Roberwa (which should take place monthly) has been postponed several times. With CIAT chiefs of mission clear that the government is evincing "a pattern of not accepting responsibility" and that there has been "no political will to move forward since the Security Council visit," it was decided that a clear message needed to be sent to transition leaders to get things back on track. The November 25 communique (see paragraph 6 for full text in informal English translation) was accepted by all CIAT members and released to the press. CIAT intentionally timed the communique to be released shortly before the visits to Kinshasa this week of South African Foreign Minister Zuma, Belgian Minister of Defense Flahaut, Belgian Minister of Cooperation de Decker, and E.U. Great Lakes Envoy Aiello. It is expected that the visitors will reinforce CIAT's message during their meetings with Congolese officials this week.

Comment

¶5. (C) The government has not responded to the communique, but officials close to Kabila and Roberwa expressed consternation and anger to us, claiming the communique could undermine the transition. We, of course, responded that inaction on the part of the transition's leaders is the greatest threat to the transition. President Kabila, who had conveyed his annoyance about a much softer communique last month (which at least had the effect of getting him to agree to meet), has the choice of either digging in his heels and ignoring the call for action, or of taking long overdue action on the EUSEC Report and other matters that require leadership from the top. End comment.

Text of Communique

16. (U) An unofficial translation from French of CIAT's November 25 communique follows:

BEGIN TEXT: CIAT salutes the magnificent efforts and commitment of the Congolese people in registering in massive numbers to participate in future elections. Thus far, more than 23 million voters have registered. The time has now come for the Congolese leadership to give proof of similar efforts and commitment on its part to building a better future for the country.

During its recent visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo, the United Nations Security Council called for rapid progress on needed procedures to hold the referendum on the constitution, to pass the amnesty law, and for parliament to debate both at the commission and plenary level the draft election law. The electoral law must be dealt with procedurally on an urgent basis, ensuring that the substance of the law is approved before the referendum of December 18, 2005 so that Parliament can formally adopt the law immediately after the referendum. Without rapid progress in these areas, the election timetable as set out in the Global and Inclusive Accord (note: i.e., the Sun City Accord) will be unattainable. CIAT urges the transitional government and parliament, as well as the Independent Electoral Commission, to move with more speed on these procedures for the referendum on the constitution, and to hold to the December 18 date already set by the Independent Electoral Commission. CIAT shares the desire of the people to emerge from the transition and to make a new start in the history of the country with a duly elected, legitimate government.

CIAT deplores the failure of the Congolese authorities to regularly pay and feed the national army, and to ensure adequate health conditions for it, despite promises made to the Security Council and despite the fact that the State has sufficient funds at its disposal. This failure is handicapping the army from operating effectively against foreign armed groups such as the FDLR which plague the people of the Kivus. The international community has been waiting for months for a response from the government to the EUSEC Report, which offers support for an improved system to pay the army. Government acceptance of this report will trigger associated financing to help equip newly integrated brigades.

CIAT repeats its call for a meeting with no further delay of the Joint Commission for Security Sector Reform, as well as a meeting between CIAT and the Espace Presidential, so that it can receive a clear response on the part of the government concerning the EUSEC Report. Both such meetings have recently been delayed. CIAT would like to be reassured that the government is committed to paying its army, which is the essence of national sovereignty, and that it will not tolerate the pursuit of hidden agendas and corrupt practices that constitute a betrayal of the people's aspirations.

Kinshasa, November 25, 2005

END TEXT.
DOUGHERTY